



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Naomasa SHIRAISHI

Group Art Unit: 2877

Application No.: 09/690,591

Examiner: K. Brown

Filed: October 18, 2000

Docket No.: 107629

For: EXPOSURE METHOD AND APPARATUS, AND
METHOD OF FABRICATING A DEVICE

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to December 5, 2003 Notice of Allowance and the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance therein, please consider the following:

Remarks.

REMARKS

The Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance attached to the December 5, 2003 Notice of Allowability states that "the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the differential exhaust system including the position of the second aperture, a chamber that hermetically seals or [a] second object being enclosed in the enclosure member all in conjunction with the rest of the claimed subject matter." Applicant agrees that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest these features. However, not all of these features are recited in each of the allowed independent claims.

The Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance appears to imply that all of the features mentioned are recited in each of the allowed claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the following comments to clarify which features identified in the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance actually appear in the allowed independent claims.

Independent claim 4 recites a differential exhaust system, but does not recite a second aperture, a chamber that hermetically seals, or a second object enclosed in an enclosure member.

Independent claim 12 recites a differential exhaust system and a chamber that substantially hermetically seals, but does not recite a second aperture or a second object enclosed in an enclosure member.

Independent claim 16 recites enclosing a first space by an enclosure member, but does not recite a differential exhaust system, a second aperture, a chamber that hermetically seals, or a second object enclosed in an enclosure member.

Independent claim 24 a second object enclosed in an enclosure member and a second aperture different from the first aperture, but does not recite a differential exhaust system, a specific position of the second aperture, or a chamber that hermetically seals.

Independent claim 32 recites an enclosure member surrounding and substantially sealing a first space, but does not recite a differential exhaust system, a second aperture, a chamber that hermetically seals, or a second object enclosed in the enclosure member.

Independent claim 50 recites a second enclosure member that encloses a second object, but does not recite a differential exhaust system, a second aperture, or a chamber that hermetically seals.

Furthermore, none of the allowed independent claims recite a particular position of the second aperture.

Applicant respectfully submits that any statement of reasons for allowance should indicate which of the allowed independent claims the particular reason(s) are considered to apply. As explained above, the generalized statement provided with the December 5, 2003 Notice of Allowability does not properly differentiate between the independent claims that recite different features and also identifies a feature that is not recited in any of the independent claims.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance to the extent that it differs from the features actually recited in each of the allowed claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 1, 2004